



The Best of Oregon

CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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BEAVERTON'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION HOSTS DISCUSSION FOR FAMILIES WITH GAY OR LESBIAN MEMBERS

BEAVERTON, Ore. – Beaverton's Human Rights Advisory Commission (HRAC) is hosting a presentation and discussion with PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays) during their next regular meeting on Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Beaverton City Library (12375 SW Fifth St.). Dawn Holt, president of Portland PFLAG, will begin her presentation at 7:30 p.m.

"Embracing our differences is imperative to our community's overall success," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "Beaverton is a welcoming and diverse city. By having these conversations, we can learn how to better serve all of our residents."

Committed to equal rights for all, PFLAG was started in 1972 with an emphasis on providing support for families dealing with children with a same sex orientation. Active in Portland since 1975, PFLAG has evolved into an organization promoting education and advocacy to end discrimination.

Holt will share her personal story and discuss her experiences raising a child who is gay in today's society. Time will be allotted for a discussion and questions.

"Coping with stereotypes and discrimination in our culture, as a family, can be a tremendous obstacle," said Rob Solomon, HRAC chair. "We look forward to learning about the issues as well as the resources that are available."

HRAC's mission is to safeguard the rights of all citizens and promote mutual understanding. HRAC helps citizens and government in the Beaverton embrace and celebrate diversity, eliminate bigotry and enhance a sense of community. HRAC continues to be involved in a number of programs that promote basic human rights in the community.

For more information about HRAC, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov/HRAC or contact Rob Solomon, HRAC chair, at 503-644-9696.

In 2013, Beaverton was again recognized as the **safest city in Oregon**. Since 2007, Beaverton has been named one of the safest cities in the Northwest. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was one of just four

cities of its size recently recognized as a **"Smarter City" energy leader** by the **Natural Resources Defense Council** and **one of the 100 Best Places to Live in America** by *Money* magazine. In addition, Beaverton was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine, an **All-America City finalist**, as **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com*, **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine, the **Recycler of the Year** from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists and as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**, the Beaverton Community Vision program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter. Beaverton also enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. For more information, please visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton.

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